



North Carolina General Assembly Senate

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July 24, 2019

President Pro Tempore Phil Berger
North Carolina General Assembly
Legislative Building, Room 2007
16 West Jones Street
Raleigh, North Carolina 27601-2808

Dear Mr. President Pro Tempore:

As members of the North Carolina Senate, we write to express serious concerns about the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction's ("DPI") recent process for selection of the multi-million dollar contract to test reading skills of North Carolina students (the "Contract"). Specifically, we ask that you (1) establish a Select Senate Committee, in consultation with the State Board of Education, to review the procurement process for the Contract; and (2) delay implementation of the Contract for a year.

In your capacity as President Pro Tempore, you alone have authority to establish a Select Senate Committee to review the procurement process for the Contract. Based on a review of public documents produced by DPI, we are concerned about the selection of Istation as the new reading assessment tool. The evaluation committee twice recommended an alternative tool, mClass, based on DPI's ranked evaluation criteria. We call on you to exercise your authority to provide a Senate review of this process via a Select Committee in order to make sure we are serving the students' best interests.

Second, we ask that you delay the implementation of any new reading assessment tool for at least one year due to both concerns about the procurement process and the turnaround time required to implement any new tool. As you know, last month, the North Carolina School Superintendents Association, including 88 local superintendents, also called for a delay due to the compressed turnaround period.

We believe these steps will help restore some of the confidence lost by superintendents, teachers, and parents regarding the procurement process. In light of the impending start of the new school year and concerns about the procurement process, we ask that you carry out these two requests as soon as possible.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Jay Chaudhuri
Senate District 15



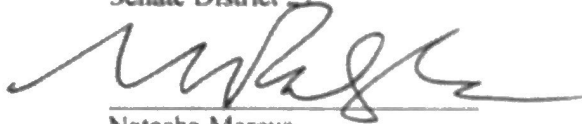
Kirk deViere
Senate District 19



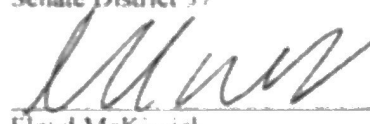
Michael Garrett
Senate District 27



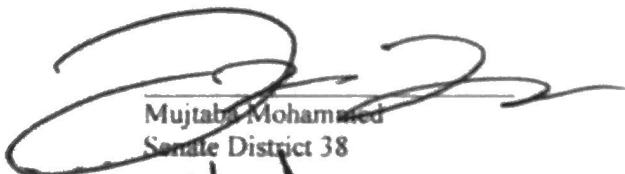
Jeff Jackson
Senate District 37



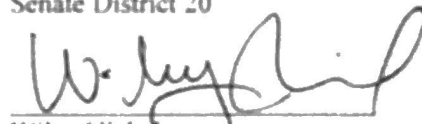
Natasha Marcus
Senate District 41



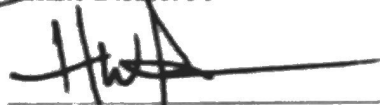
Floyd McKissick
Senate District 20



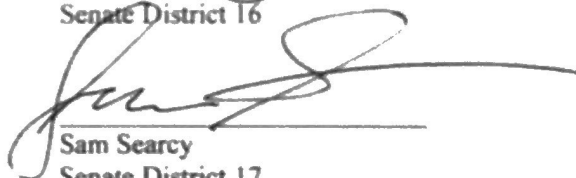
Mujtaba Mohamed
Senate District 38



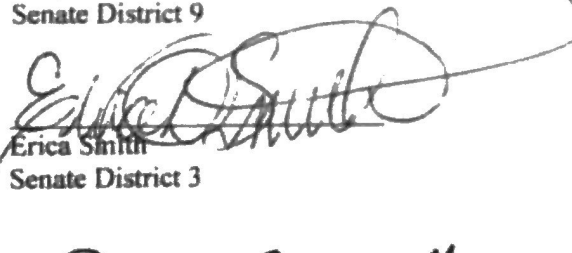
Wiley Nickel
Senate District 16



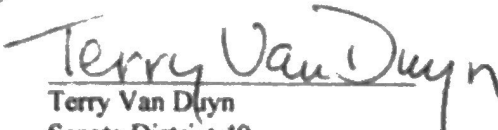
Harper Peterson
Senate District 9



Sam Searcy
Senate District 17



Erica Smith
Senate District 3



Terry Van Dryn
Senate District 49



Joyce Waddell
Senate District 40